

**FILED**  
4/7/2021

THOMAS G. BRUTON  
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT

AUSA Mary Katherine McClelland (312) 371-1078

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

STEVE WAITHE

Case No.:

**21 CR 216**

BETH W. JANTZ  
Magistrate Judge

**AFFIDAVIT IN REMOVAL PROCEEDING**

I, MARK WILSON, appearing by telephone before United States Magistrate Judge BETH W. JANTZ and being duly sworn on oath, state that as a federal law enforcement officer I have been informed that STEVE WAITHE has been charged by Complaint in the District of Massachusetts with the following criminal offenses: cyberstalking, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2261A(2); and wire fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343.

A copy of the Complaint is attached. A copy of the arrest warrant also is attached.

/s/ Mark Wilson w/ permission BWJ

MARK WILSON  
Special Agent  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to telephonically this 7th day of April, 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
BETH W. JANTZ  
United States Magistrate Judge

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
for the  
District of Massachusetts

United States of America

v.

Steve Waithe

Case No.

21-MJ-1209-DLC

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*Defendant(s)*

**CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of February 2020 - April 2021 in the county of Suffolk, and elsewhere, in the  
                     District of Massachusetts, the defendant(s) violated:

*Code Section**Offense Description*

18 USC § 1343

Wire fraud

18 USC § 2261A(2)

Cyberstalking

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See attached affidavit of FBI SA Mark Wilson.

☒ Continued on the attached sheet.

Mark Wilson *dlc*

*Complainant's signature*

Special Agent Mark Wilson, FBI

*Printed name and title*

Attested to by the complainant in accordance with the requirements of  
 Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1 by telephone.

Date: 4/6/2021

*[Signature]*

*Judge's signature*City and state: Boston, MA

Hon. Donald L. Cabell, U.S. Magistrate Judge

*Printed name and title*

**AFFIDAVIT OF SPECIAL AGENT MARK WILSON  
IN SUPPORT OF CRIMINAL COMPLAINT AND ARREST WARRANT**

I, Special Agent Mark Wilson, being duly sworn, hereby state the following:

1. I am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) and have been so employed since January 2019. Before becoming an FBI Special Agent, I worked for five years as a Staff Operations Specialist in the FBI’s Cleveland Division, providing analytical support for criminal and national security cyber investigations. I was also a member of the FBI’s Child Abduction Rapid Deployment Team, through which I deployed across the United States to investigate child abductions by providing cyber analysis. I was also assigned to the Cleveland Police Department’s Homicide Unit Task Force, where I conducted internet and technical analysis to investigate homicide cases. Beyond my work experience, I also have received extensive formal training in investigative techniques at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

2. I am currently assigned to the Cyber Crimes Squad in the FBI’s Boston Division. I am responsible for investigations involving computer system intrusions, internet fraud, and cyberstalking. I have participated in the execution of warrants involving both cyber and white-collar crimes. Based on my training and experience, I am familiar with the means by which individuals use computers and information networks to commit these and other crimes.

**PURPOSE OF AFFIDAVIT**

3. I am currently investigating STEVE WAITHE (“WAITHE”) for various crimes, including, but not limited to, computer fraud and abuse, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1030(a)(4) and (5)(C); cyberstalking, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2261A(2)(B); extortion, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 875(d); and wire fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343.

4. This affidavit is submitted in support of a criminal complaint and arrest warrant charging WAITHE with wire fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343, and cyberstalking, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2261A(2). As set forth below, I have probable cause to believe that, from at least in or around February 2020 through at

least in or around April 2021, WAITHE perpetrated a scheme to trick female then-current or former Northeastern University (“Northeastern”) Track and Field athletes into sending him nude or semi-nude photos through the use of sham social media accounts and stolen or otherwise-compromised photos of the victims. I also have probable cause to believe that, from at least on or about June 21, 2020 through at least on or about October 3, 2020, WAITHE engaged in the cyberstalking of at least one female then-current or former Northeastern student-athlete through messages sent via social media and intrusion into her social media account(s).

5. The facts stated herein are based on my own personal involvement in the below-described investigation, as well as from information provided by other law enforcement officers and from certain records. This affidavit is intended to show merely that there is probable cause for the requested complaint and arrest warrant and does not set forth all of my knowledge about this matter.

### **STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE**

#### **A. Background of Investigation**

6. WAITHE is a resident of Chicago, Illinois who previously resided in Somerville, Massachusetts. Until in or about 2020, WAITHE had worked as a track and field coach at several academic institutions, including Penn State University, the Illinois Institute of Technology, the University of Tennessee, Northeastern University, and Concordia University Chicago.

7. The FBI has been conducting an investigation of WAITHE, who was employed as a coach of the Northeastern Track and Field team from on or about October 11, 2018 until in or about February 2019. The investigation has centered on allegations that WAITHE used his position to steal compromising photos of women on the team from their cellphones and attempted to extort, stalk, and otherwise harass the victims, largely through dummy social media accounts.

8. Starting during his first semester at Northeastern, WAITHE engaged in conduct that gave rise to multiple reports of sexual harassment and led to a Title IX investigation

conducted by the university. WAITHE's employment at Northeastern ended in or about February 2019, after the conclusion of the Title IX investigation.

9. During his time at Northeastern, WAITHE regularly requested the use of cellphones of student-athletes for the stated purpose of filming their form at practice and at meets. In these circumstances, female student-athletes provided WAITHE with access to their phones and permission to record videos of them. While at times WAITHE did record the performance of female student-athletes, WAITHE also was observed "scrolling through" the phone(s) of one or more female student-athletes while holding the phone(s) as if he were recording video. On one or more occasions, including at a track and field meet at Harvard University in January 2019, WAITHE possessed at least one female student-athlete's phone for several hours.

**B. The Wire Fraud Scheme**

10. As set forth below, beginning at least in or around February 2020, WAITHE engaged in a scheme designed to trick female then-current or former Northeastern student-athletes into sending him nude or semi-nude photos of themselves. In furtherance of the scheme, WAITHE contacted victims through Instagram<sup>1</sup> accounts, stated that he had found compromising photos of the victims online, and offered to "help" them get the photos removed from the internet. WAITHE also sent examples of the compromising photos to the victims.

11. From February 2020 to the present, the known victims have received more than 100 messages via Instagram like those described herein and dozens of image files depicting themselves and/or their friends or teammates. In perpetrating the scheme, WAITHE repeatedly employed the same basic pattern of conduct: disclosure of compromising photos of the victim, a claim that the photos had been discovered online, and a request for additional photos.

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<sup>1</sup> Instagram is a social media application and service that enables users to, among other things, share photos and videos and to communicate with one another through "direct messages" in the app. Direct messages can be comprised of text, images, and/or videos.

WAITHE's Google and Instagram Accounts

12. During the course of my investigation, I have reviewed records relating to IP addresses<sup>2</sup> assigned to WAITHE, Google accounts utilized by WAITHE, and Instagram accounts created and/or controlled by WAITHE. Based on these records, I have determined that WAITHE has utilized at least three Google accounts in furtherance of the conduct described in this affidavit, as well as the Instagram accounts used to contact the victims as described below.

Conduct as to Victims 1-5

13. On or about February 13, 2020, a female then-current or former member of the Northeastern Track and Field team ("Victim 1")<sup>3</sup> received a message via Instagram from an account with the username "anon.4887" (the "anon.4887 Instagram account").

14. During the course of my investigation, I have reviewed records obtained from Google demonstrating that the anon.4887 Instagram account was created and/or controlled by WAITHE. For example, on February 14, 2020, Instagram sent a notification email regarding the anon.4887 Instagram account to one of WAITHE's Google email addresses.<sup>4</sup>

15. In his initial messages from the anon.4887 Instagram account to Victim 1, WAITHE introduced himself as "Katie Janovich" and stated that he had located compromising photos of Victim 1 online. WAITHE then sent several nude or semi-nude photos of Victim 1, writing, "Sorry[,] I created this [anon.4887 Instagram] profile to help out don't wanna be part of

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<sup>2</sup> An "Internet Protocol address" or "IP address," as used herein, refers to a unique numeric or alphanumeric string used by a computer or other digital service to access the internet. Every computer or device accessing the internet must be assigned an IP address so that internet traffic sent from and directed to that computer or device may be directed properly from its source to its destination. Internet Service Providers typically maintain logs of the subscribers to whom IP addresses are assigned on particular dates and times.

<sup>3</sup> The identities of the victims in this case are known to law enforcement. To protect their privacy, the victims are identified in this affidavit as Victims 1-6. Investigators have interviewed each of the victims and believe their allegations to be credible.

<sup>4</sup> Google has produced records for this account pursuant to a federal search warrant. Based on my review of emails and other data produced by Google, I know that this account was utilized by WAITHE.

the drama”. Still presenting himself as “Katie Janovich”, WAITHE indicated that he had “screenshotted” the photos, in a purported effort to “help.” In addition to photos of Victim 1, WAITHE also sent nude or semi-nude photos depicting other young women, including other female members of the Northeastern Track and Field team.

16. When Victim 1 agreed to allow “Katie” to assist in identifying photos of her friends or teammates on the internet, WAITHE responded, “Not until you send me pictures of you.”

17. Under the pretense that “Katie’s” own compromising photos had also been found online, WAITHE repeatedly requested more photos from Victim 1, writing, “I’ll send you all the personal ones if you send me you[;] that’s the only way[.] I also saw another girl that you might know too. But only if you send yours.” WAITHE also wrote, “You should send me one of you then.”

18. During the conversation, WAITHE sent Victim 1 no fewer than eighteen nude or semi-nude photos via Instagram depicting Victim 1 and others. WAITHE also claimed to have “hundreds” of additional photos.

19. Victim 1 did not send additional photos to WAITHE.

20. On June 12, 2020, a female then-current or former member of the Northeastern Track and Field team (“Victim 2”) began receiving direct messages via Instagram from an account with the username “privacyprotector” (the “privacyprotector Instagram account”).

21. During the course of my investigation, I have reviewed records obtained from Google demonstrating that the privacyprotector Instagram account was created and/or controlled by WAITHE. Approximately fifteen minutes prior to the first contact from the privacyprotector Instagram account to Victim 2, Instagram sent an email to one of WAITHE’s Google email addresses<sup>5</sup> which read, “Welcome to Instagram, privacyprotector”. Records obtained from

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<sup>5</sup> Google has produced records for this account pursuant to a federal search warrant. Based on my review of emails and other data produced by Google, I know that this account was utilized by WAITHE.

Google relating to the internet search history associated with another one of WAITHE's Google accounts<sup>6</sup> indicate that the account was used to search for Victim 2's name multiple times in 2020, including three times less than four minutes before Victim 2 received her first message from the privacyprotector Instagram account<sup>7</sup>:

Time	Search Term
5/6/2020 11:50:05 PM (EDT)	[REDACTED] northeastern
5/6/2020 11:50:22 PM (EDT)	[REDACTED] northeastern
5/12/2020 11:19:42 PM (EDT)	[REDACTED]
5/17/2020 11:22:07 PM (EDT)	[REDACTED]
6/12/2020 11:24:02 AM (EDT)	[REDACTED] northeastern
6/12/2020 11:24:14 AM (EDT)	[REDACTED] northeastern
6/12/2020 11:24:31 AM (EDT)	[REDACTED] northeastern

22. During the conversation between WAITHE, using the privacyprotector Instagram account, and Victim 2, WAITHE sent nude images of Victim 2 via direct message. WAITHE claimed to have found the photos on the "dark web" and on a website called "leakedbb.com."<sup>8</sup> Under the "privacyprotector" identity, WAITHE asked Victim 2 if she would like assistance in taking the photos down and claimed that it was his "job" to do "image scrubbing" on the internet to find and remove photos of Victim 2.

23. Later in the conversation, and under the pretense of assisting with the removal of photos of Victim 2 from the internet, WAITHE asked Victim 2 if she had any "pictures of you nude currently that I can use as reference" that could be used to "help my reverse image search". WAITHE attempted to persuade Victim 2 to send additional nude photos by telling her that "people" have ways to evade the detection of a "reverse image search" and explained that "more

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<sup>6</sup> Google has produced records for this account pursuant to a federal search warrant. Based on my review of emails and other data produced by Google, I know that this account was utilized by WAITHE.

<sup>7</sup> Victim 2's name has been redacted from the list of search terms.

<sup>8</sup> In the weeks leading up to the messages from the privacyprotector Instagram account to Victim 2, records relating to WAITHE's Google search history includes searches relating to the "leakedbb", a website which hosts numerous types of "leaked" content, including photos.



detailed pictures” were “the only way I can stop that from happening”. WAITHE wrote to Victim 2 that he had “done this plenty of times even for another Northeastern athlete”.

24. Victim 2 did not send additional photos to WAITHE.

25. Starting on or about July 26, 2020, a female then-current or former member of the Northeastern Track and Field team (“Victim 3”) began receiving messages via Instagram from an account with the username “theprivacyprotector” (the “theprivacyprotector Instagram account”).

26. During the course of my investigation, I have reviewed records obtained from Google demonstrating that the theprivacyprotector Instagram account was created and/or controlled by WAITHE. For example, on July 29, 2020, Instagram sent a notification email regarding the theprivacyprotector Instagram account to one of WAITHE’s Google email addresses.

27. During the conversation between WAITHE, using the theprivacyprotector Instagram account, and Victim 3, WAITHE told Victim 3 that there were photos depicting Victim 3 posted on the internet and asked if Victim 3 would like his help getting the images taken down “asap”. WAITHE then sent a semi-nude image depicting Victim 3. When Victim 3 did not respond, the sender wrote, “Is that a no? It’s fine if you don’t want my help just let me know don’t want to waste time.”

28. When Victim 3 still did not respond, WAITHE sent another semi-nude image depicting Victim 3, along with the text, “also there’s this one[.] And there’s about 5 of your teammates on there as well a lot of them fully nude. I can show you if you don’t believe me[.] Ok well your choice. I’ll leave you alone. Best of luck!”

29. Victim 3 did not send additional photos to WAITHE.

30. At some point prior to July 30, 2020, a female then-current or former member of the Northeastern Track and Field team (“Victim 4”) also began receiving messages from WAITHE via Instagram from the theprivacyprotector Instagram account.

31. During the conversation, WAITHE sent two images of Victim 5 and informed her that the images had been posted on a website called “leakedbb.com.” WAITHE offered to contact the website to have the images removed:

Ok what would you like me to do. There’s two ways I can go about it. I can go through all of the pictures on the website and pick out which ones look like you and your friends or similar and contact the host and have him take it down which takes about a week or two because he claims he’s always busy. Or I can reverse search every image that you believe could have been hacked or NSFW and scrub them off the site that way. That takes about 4 hours. Now obviously that option you can only do 4 pictures you have in your possession which are your own. Totally up to you.

32. When Victim 4 responded that she would like assistance in having the photos removed, WAITHE explained the “catch” to his proposed solution: “But only thing about that option is you have to share with me basically every picture you have that you wouldn’t want on the internet which I know is uncomfortable but that’s the only way I can search them”.

33. Later in the conversation, WAITHE wrote, “I have a question. When I reached out to one of the women [Victim 6] and showed her and asked if it could be someone who leaked them she said some named Steve. Do you know a Steve that it could be that we can investigate?”

34. WAITHE also attempted to persuade Victim 4 to send additional compromising photos: “Is there more pictures that would have been hacked from your phone that are different. I can look for those too. Also I’m pretty sure who ever it is they hacked them because it’s a 6 different women on your team and 38 total from the school. ... The reason I asked you to send me all of the pictures from your phone is because if I have the original pictures. I can use the properties from the pictures to track where they originated on the site and find the ip addresses of the poster or at least a location.”

35. Several weeks later, Victim 4 received a message via Instagram from a similarly-named account with the username “privacyprotected” (the “privacyprotected Instagram account”) referencing the above-described previous conversation.

36. Records obtained during my investigation demonstrate that the privacyprotected Instagram account was created and/or controlled by WAITHE. Specifically, the records indicate that the privacyprotected Instagram account was registered from an IP address that matches an IP address assigned by Comcast Communications to WAITHE and that the account also was registered with WAITHE's phone number, xxx-xxx-6887.<sup>9</sup>

37. In this portion of the conversation, WAITHE wrote, "Hello [Victim 4]! I don't if you remember me from a couple of weeks ago. I did some digging. Can you confirm something for me. ... Is the Steve you were talking about Steve Waithe?" When Victim 5 responded in the affirmative, the sender wrote, "We are looking into him now. From what we are seeing it does not look like the IP address is coming from him but I want to be sure".

38. Victim 4 did not send additional photos to WAITHE.

39. On or about June 30, 2020, at approximately 7:48 PM, a female then-current or former member of the Northeastern Track and Field team ("Victim 5") received a message via Instagram from an account with the username "privacyprotect1" (the "privacyprotect1 Instagram account").

40. During the course of my investigation, I have reviewed records obtained from Google demonstrating that the privacyprotect1 Instagram account was created and/or controlled by WAITHE. For example, on or about June 30, 2020 (the same day when Victim 5 received her first message from the account), Instagram sent a notification email relating to the privacyprotect1 Instagram account to one of WAITHE's Google email addresses.

41. During the conversation, WAITHE sent approximately four nude images depicting Victim 5. WAITHE explained to Victim 5 that he was working with a website started for people whose nude photos were "leaked" with the hope of determining who had "leaked" the images and having the images removed from the internet.

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<sup>9</sup> As of April 5, 2021, the privacyprotected Instagram account remained an active account on Instagram. Based on records obtained during my investigation, including Comcast subscriber records and a screenshot of a message in which WAITHE himself provided this number to a victim, I have confirmed that the xxx-xxx-6887 phone number belongs to WAITHE.

42. According to Victim 5, the nude images sent to her from the privacyprotect1 Instagram account had been saved on her cellphone in Fall 2018, when WAITHE was her coach. Victim 5 reported that she had provided WAITHE with her cellphone to allow him to film her form at practice and that WAITHE had possession of her phone on multiple occasions for extended periods of time.

43. Victim 5 did not send additional photos to WAITHE.

44. Records relating to WAITHE's Google accounts reveal at least dozens of searches and website visits in 2020 appearing to relate to the wire fraud scheme. In May 2020, for example, WAITHE's internet search and browsing history includes a search for "can an Instagram be traced" and a visit to a webpage page entitled, "Can anyone trace my fake Instagram account back to me?"

45. Based on my training and experience, as well as through evidence obtained in the course of this investigation, I understand that the servers on which Instagram's social media platform is based are not located in Massachusetts and that the direct messages sent via Instagram described above were transmitted through interstate wires.

46. Based on my training and experience, as well as through evidence obtained in the course of this investigation, I believe that WAITHE utilized the above-described Google and Instagram accounts, and messages sent from these accounts, in furtherance of a scheme or schemes to obtain property – *i.e.*, nude or semi-nude photographs of the victims – by way of false representation and/or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises.

**C. The Cyberstalking Course of Conduct**

47. From on or about June 21, 2020 through at least on or about October 3, 2020, WAITHE engaged in cyberstalking with respect to a then-current or former member of the Northeastern Track and Field team ("Victim 6"). WAITHE's cyberstalking with respect to Victim 6 included sending messages and stolen or otherwise-compromised nude photos depicting Victim 6 via Instagram; obtaining, or conspiring to obtain, unauthorized access to her Snapchat account; stealing, or conspiring to steal, private photos contained in her Snapchat

account; sending the private photos via Instagram to Victim 6's boyfriend; and sending additional text messages to Victim 6 from an anonymous phone number.<sup>10</sup>

48. On or about June 21, 2020, at approximately 12:34 AM, Victim 6 began receiving messages sent via Instagram from the privacyprotector Instagram account, referenced above with respect to WAITHE's contact with Victim 2.

49. During the conversation, WAITHE sent approximately seven nude or semi-nude photos of both Victim 2 and Victim 6 under the pretense that he could help Victim 6 determine the origin of the photos and assist in having them removed from the internet. During the conversation, WAITHE did not request additional photos from Victim 6.

50. According to Victim 6, the nude or semi-nude photos sent during this conversation had been stored on her cellphone in Fall 2018, when WAITHE was her coach. She reported that WAITHE had regular access to her cellphone and the cellphones of other student-athletes, and with their permission he would use their phones to film their form at practice. Victim 6 reported that, on several occasions in Fall 2018, she provided WAITHE with her unlocked cellphone and that WAITHE had possession of the phone for approximately 20 minutes at a time. Victim 6 reported that, on at least one occasion, she observed WAITHE using a "scrolling" motion with her phone, rather than simply using the phone to film her at practice.

51. On or about October 3, 2020, Victim 6 received text messages from four unknown numbers purporting to be sent from the "Snapchat Support Team." The messages included reports of alleged suspicious activity with respect to Victim 6's Snapchat account and requested that Victim 6 provide a six-digit passcode to resolve the issue. Victim 6 provided a six-digit passcode to the sender, along with a four-digit PIN. Victim 6 was notified later that day of an unauthorized login to her Snapchat account.

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<sup>10</sup> Snapchat is a social media application and messaging service that enables users to, among other things, share photos and videos and to communicate with one another through text-based messages. Snapchat also has a feature through which users can store media in a private album protected by an additional password or PIN number.

52. Based on my training and experience, as well as through information provided by Victim 6, I understand that the six-digit passcode and four-digit PIN provided by Victim 6 would have enabled the recipient to log in to Victim 6's Snapchat account and also access a private, PIN-protected photo album in the Snapchat application called "My Eyes Only."

53. In the evening on or about October 3, 2020, Victim 6's boyfriend received direct messages on Instagram from an account with the username "pvcyprotect" and a profile picture containing the words "Privacy Protector" (the "pvcyprotect Instagram account"). The first message, sent at approximately 9:06 PM, read, "I wanted to make you aware that someone hacked your girlfriend's snapchat account and will leak it soon. I need your help to assure this does not happen."

54. During the course of this investigation, I have reviewed records obtained from Google demonstrating that the pvcyprotect Instagram account was created and/or controlled by WAITHE. For example, on October 5, 2020, Instagram sent a notification email regarding the pvcyprotect Instagram account to one of WAITHE's Google email addresses.

55. On or about October 3, 2020, WAITHE, using the pvcyprotect Instagram account, sent two nude photos depicting Victim 6 to Victim 6's boyfriend that, according to Victim 6, had been stored only in her private "My Eyes Only" album in Snapchat. The sender wrote, "Do these look familiar?" and "Please let me know asap".

56. Based on records obtained during this investigation, WAITHE has repeatedly searched for information on the internet about how to hack or otherwise obtain remote access to Snapchat accounts, including searches for "how to hack someone's Snapchat", "how to hack a Snapchat", and "hacked Snapchat nudes". On October 2, 2020 – that is, the day before the unauthorized access of Victim 6's Snapchat account described above – WAITHE's internet search history reveals a search for "how to hack Snapchat with a username and phone number". WAITHE's internet browsing history for the same day reveals visits to pages entitled, "How to Hack Someones Snapchat the Easy Way" and "How to Hack Someones Snapchat Account Password Online".

57. On or about October 3, 2020, at approximately 9:20 PM, Victim 6 also received two text messages from an unknown number, xxx-xxx-5817. The messages contained a photograph depicting Victim 6, as well as the question, “Is this you?”

58. During the course of this investigation, I have reviewed records obtained from a company called TextNow, which provides an end-to-end phone service available through a downloadable application. TextNow can be used to make free calls and send text messages over wireless internet. TextNow will assign phone numbers to users, which users can change on request.

59. Records obtained from TextNow indicate that the number xxx-xxx-5817 was registered using one of WAITHE’s Google accounts on October 3, 2020 at 9:17 PM.

60. Based on my training and experience, as well as through evidence obtained during the course of this investigation, I believe that WAITHE sent the photos and messages via Instagram to Victim 6 as described above, obtained or conspired to obtain unauthorized access to Victim 6’s Snapchat account, sent the photos and messages to Victim 6’s boyfriend as described above, and utilized an otherwise-anonymous TextNow phone number to send additional messages to Victim 6.

61. Based on my training and experience, I understand that Google, Instagram, and/or Snapchat services described herein qualify as interactive computer services, electronic communication services, or electronic communication systems of interstate commerce, or any other facilities of interstate or foreign commerce.

**D. Additional Related Conduct**

62. In addition to the evidence obtained concerning WAITHE’s scheme to defraud, and his course of conduct to harass, female then-current or former Northeastern student-athletes, records obtained during the course of my investigation relating to WAITHE’s Google accounts reveal evidence of a different criminal scheme and a separate and as-yet unknown number of additional victims.

63. Under the purported premise of an “athlete research” or “body development” study, WAITHE has emailed prospective victims from one of his Google accounts using the persona of “Katie Janovich”, mentioned above. The emails contain an introduction like, “My name is Katie, Steve told me to reach out to you in hopes for you to help us with our research!” The emails describe a phony study for athletes and request information relating to height, weight, body fat, and diet habits. The emails include a “most important” request for the victims to send photos of themselves in a “uniform or bathing suit to show as much skin as possible.” The emails include this explanation: “Most women have just sent a bunch of pictures in a bra and a thong because it shows the most. Regular deep cut bras are best if you want to go topless that’s best women have done that too because the easiest places the body usually shows changes is the butt and the breasts.”

64. The emails provide the “reassurance” that the victims’ photos will not be shared or saved. The emails conclude with the sender – “Katie” – stating that she will attach some example photos of herself and oftentimes offering to send the victim a gift card when they are finished participating in the study. The emails contain attachments of nude and semi-nude images of “Katie,” a woman investigators have not yet identified.

65. Records obtained from Google also indicate that WAITHE is engaged in a similar scheme using the pseudonym “Kathryn Svoboda,” instead of the name “Katie Janovich.”

66. To date, investigators have identified more than ten victims of the “body development study” scheme, as well as over 300 nude and semi-nude images of victims in WAITHE’s Google accounts.

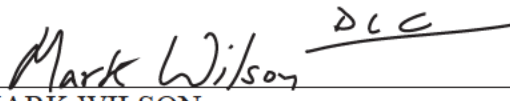
### **CONCLUSION**

67. Based on the foregoing, I have probable cause to believe that WAITHE devised and engaged in a scheme to defraud and to obtain property by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises, and utilized interstate wires in so doing, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343; and that WAITHE engaged in intentional harassment and/or intimidation through the use of any interactive computer service, electronic



communication service, or electronic communication system of interstate commerce in a course of conduct that caused, attempted to cause, or would reasonably be expected to cause substantial emotional distress, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2261A(2).

Sworn to under the pains and penalties of perjury.

  
MARK WILSON  
Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subscribed and sworn to via telephone in accordance with  
Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1 on April 6, 2021.



HON. DONALD L. CABELL  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS



## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

District of Massachusetts

United States of America

v.

STEVE WAITHE

Case No. 21-MJ-1209-DLC

*Defendant*

## ARREST WARRANT

To: Any authorized law enforcement officer

**YOU ARE COMMANDED** to arrest and bring before a United States magistrate judge without unnecessary delay(name of person to be arrested) STEVE WAITHE,

who is accused of an offense or violation based on the following document filed with the court:

- ☐ Indictment   
 ☐ Superseding Indictment   
 ☐ Information   
 ☐ Superseding Information   
☒ Complaint  
☐ Probation Violation Petition   
☐ Supervised Release Violation Petition   
☐ Violation Notice   
☐ Order of the Court

This offense is briefly described as follows:

18 USC § 1343 - WIRE FRAUD  
 18 USC § 2261A(2) - CYBERSTALKING

Date: 4/6/2021City and state: Boston, MA
*Issuing officer's signature*

Hon. Donald L. Cabell, U.S. Magistrate Judge

*Printed name and title*

## Return

This warrant was received on (date) \_\_\_\_\_, and the person was arrested on (date) \_\_\_\_\_  
 at (city and state) \_\_\_\_\_.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Arresting officer's signature**Printed name and title*

**This second page contains personal identifiers provided for law-enforcement use only  
and therefore should not be filed in court with the executed warrant unless under seal.**

*(Not for Public Disclosure)*

Name of defendant/offender: STEVE WAITHE

Known aliases:

Last known residence:

Prior addresses to which defendant/offender may still have ties:

Last known employment:

Last known telephone numbers:

Place of birth:

Date of birth:

Social Security number: xxx-xx-1108

Height: Weight:

Sex: M Race:

Hair: Eyes:

Scars, tattoos, other distinguishing marks:

History of violence, weapons, drug use:

Known family, friends, and other associates (name, relation, address, phone number):

FBI number:

Complete description of auto:

Investigative agency and address:

Name and telephone numbers (office and cell) of pretrial services or probation officer (if applicable):

Date of last contact with pretrial services or probation officer (if applicable):